THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Support to Weavers

@3307. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Statesman of 6th January, 1992 titled "Rags resurrected as";

(b) if so, whether Government propose to support these weavers with funds and marketing facilities; and

(c) whether Government would take steps to extend such ecologically sound, indigenous, cottage industries to other areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are several on-going Schemes to enable weavers to avail themselves of working capital and marketing facilities. Government provides share capital assistance to weavers for becoming members of Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies. With this as margin money, primary societies can obtain credit at concessional rate of interest from cooperative banks. Marketing efforts are augumented by apex bodies like State Handloom Development Corporation and apex cooperative societies. Government provides Market Development Assistance to handloom organisations

(c) There is no particular scheme for the product referred to here. However, Schemes available for other handloom products could also be available for this product. Extension of production base for this particular product would depend on several factors, including willingness of the weavers and market demand.

Closed Handloom Units in the Country

3308. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of handloom units lying closed in the country State-wise;

(b) whether Government have conducted a study in respect of the miserable condition of these industries;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof state-wise, district-wise;

(d) if not, whether Government propose to conduct any study for the purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) A Census of handlooms at the national level covering, *inter-alia*, certain data on the socio-economic aspect of handloom weavers was conducted through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) during 1987-88. One of the findings of the census on the economic status of the weavers revealed that weaving house-holds supplemented their monthly earnings by undertaking non-weaving activities to improve their position significantly. A statement indicating the State-wise data on the distribution of house-holds by monthly earnings and status of idleness of the looms is attached. (*See* below).

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2410, transferred from the 12th March, 1992.